THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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MINISTER'S VISIT

The new Minister of Education and Culture, the Honourable Robbie Harrison, visited the Provincial Library on September 11. Also along for the tour were the Deputy Minister, Marilyn Gaudet, and the Executive Director of Policy Branch, Wayne Doggett. The Minister took the opportunity to meet most of the staff at the Provincial Library and to discuss our various services and initiatives. The Minister followed his visit to the Provincial Library with a visit to Learning Resources and Technology.

SUMMER READING WINNERS!

Young people across Nova Scotia were reading in a big way this summer by participating in their local public library's Summer Reading Programme. Public libraries across the province encourage children to read during the summer months by offering a variety of special activities such as story times, craft activities, games and author readings. This year's theme of pirates and hidden treasure boasted the slogan "Books - the real treasure/Les livres - un vrai tr=82sor".

Apart from the obvious benefits of reading, one of the incentives used to encourage children to participate in the Summer Reading Programme is the annual grand prize draw. All participants in each local library's Summer Reading Programme received an entry ballot. This year three lucky winners were drawn: Jeremy Burton, age 5, of Dartmouth; Brie-Ann= MacDonald, age 8, of Glace Bay; and Chris MacDonald, age 8, of Yarmouth. These lucky youngsters each received a basket full of books, a lap desk and other little prizes related to the treasure theme. All= prizes were kindly donated by H.H. Marshall Newsgroup Ltd.

Last year, province wide, about 10,000 children and young people participated in the Summer Reading Programme and next year's programme promises to be just as successful. The 1997 medieval theme will use the promotional slogan "Reading - joust for the fun of it!/La lecture - une armure pour la vie!". =20

NEW ON THE NSPL WEB SITE

If you've looked at our Web site lately you may have noticed a number of changes. First, we've changed the main page (http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.c= a) to include a map of Nova Scotia, thereby reflecting the focus of our Web site and of our services. We've also made it more visually appealing by using more images than we did previously. =20

Second, we've completed the section focusing on Technical Services.=20 Previously, little information had been available on the work of the Technical Services section but the staff have worked very hard to pull together information on the cataloguing operations of the section, on the implementation of

automation in the regional libraries and on a number of other topics. You can get to the Technical Services information by connecting to the main NSPL page (URL above) and by clicking on Services and then on Technical Services. Alternatively, you can connect directly to the Technical Services information at "http://rs6000= .nshpl.library.ns.ca/services/techserv/".

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

During the first week of October, we were informed that the youth employment strategy started in the summer of 1996 called Wire Nova Scotia (WiNS) has acquired additional resources. Funds are available for provinces to hire unemployed youths (under the age of 30) to train teachers, library staff and the general public to use the Internet. A Nova Scotia proposal was submitted on Friday, October 4 to hire up to 250 youths for libraries, schools, community networks, Community Access Project sites and other public access projects. Several projects were also submitted for a new Library Net program which was recently developed under the auspices of Industry Canada and the Provincial and Territorial Library Director's Council among others.

The details of the program are unfolding at present, but we are assuming that remuneration will be on the basis of minimum wage plus 10% plus a further 20% as an administrative fee. Projects can run until March 31, 1997. In preparation for this program which can begin as early as November 15, libraries are encouraged to develop projects related to information provision. A more complete article on Library Net will be published next month. If anyone would like to see a copy of the project proposal submitted to Industry Canada, contact Debbie Ross at the Provincial Library by e-mail at dross@nshpl.library.ns.ca or= by phone at 424-2457.=20

IN THE HEADLINES...

Cashing in on an installment of their fifteen minutes of fame, several Nova Scotia librarians recently made it into their local newspapers. The face of Fred Popowich adorned the front page of New Glasgow's Weekend News in August and a photograph of Martha MacDonald was also included in the story inside. The article publicized the= Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library's on-line catalogue as well as the= availability of the Internet in the library. Comments from Linda Arsenault and Eric Stackhouse were also quoted in the article as part of a discussion of public Internet access.

In Yarmouth, the Vanguard recently included an article on a project which took place at the Western Counties Regional Library. As part of an Industry Canada initiative, two students worked out of the WCRL to create an on-line directory of health services available in Yarmouth. The article included many comments from Virginia Stoddard as well as a photograph of her and one of the two students working on the project, Brenda Durkee.

LINKed

This month the theme is job hunting. If you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest

a theme for future columns, e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca=). Since no one has suggested a theme so far, I am left to assume that you're perfectly content with my choices... (read: Please send me a suggestion!)

JobSAT
http://www.hookup.net/~j= obsat/js-home.htm
- A Canadian tool, this job seeker service allows users to submit a profile indicating the type of position sought, location, etc. and receive a list of matching job postings by e-mail. It also allows employers to post available positions and contains information on the job market in Canada.=20 Keep checking back as this site is undergoing many improvements.

Nova Scotia Dept. of Human Resources
http://www.gov.ns.ca/hu= mr/employ/index.htm
- The Nova Scotia government blue sheets finally get wired. You can view all the job listings currently available and discover how to apply for a job within the provincial government.

Human Resources Development Canada - Nova Scotia Region
http://cc= n.cs.dal.ca/Government/HRD-NS/lmi/job_main.html
- This site includes local job listings through the Canada Employment Centre as well jobs available in other provinces. They also have information on job futures, job finding advice and average earnings in Nova Scotia by job category.

Chronicle Herald Employment Classifieds
http://www.he= rald.ns.ca/classifieds/employ/form.html
- Browse through the employment classifieds by selecting a keyword and searching the database. If you leave the optional keyword field blank, you'll get all the current job listings. -- Sue Dirani

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Patron wanted current information on being a kidney donor, such as what to expect during and after a transplant as well as possible complications, etc.

A. The phrase "kidney donor" was entered into the Infoseek search engine and a list of matching sites was returned, including one titled "Organ Transplantation and Donor Awareness". On that page there was a list of "Transplant Related Sites" including the UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing) site (http://204.127.237.11/). From that= site, there was a link to a document called LIVING DONATION: AN OVERVIEW. This overview had information such as "Facts about living donation", "Qualifications for living donors" and "About the surgical procedure". These, along with some information from database searches, were provided to the patron.

Q. Patron wanted detailed, scientific information on lymphoma, preferably in book format.

A. This question was answered partly using the Internet and partly using more traditional sources. A search was done using the Infoseek search engine using the term "lymphoma" and the result was a homepage for the Lymphoma Research Foundation of America (http://users.aol.com/lrfa/abo= ut.html). This site provides factual information on lymphoma as well as a list of lymphoma resources including organizations, related Internet sites and publications. -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two books dealing with aspects of public librarianship are featured. Items found in this column can be obtained from the Provincial Library's Professional Collection through regular ILL channels.

1) McCune, Bonnie F. and Nelson, Charlezine Terry - Recruiting and Managing Volunteers in Libraries: a How-To-Do-It Manual. (Number 51). New York: Neal-Schuman Pub., 1995. (Call # Prof. 021 .7 McC)

- This book is the latest addition to our growing collection of= "How-To-Do-It Manuals for Libraries" from=20 Neal-Schuman publishers. The authors use their extensive knowledge gained through years of experience in volunteerism to produce this well organized and practical handbook.=20 The essential message in this book is that library managers must consider the management of volunteers with the same professional focus that they place on collection development, reference, budgeting and children's services. They must recruit, train, retain and supervise volunteers in the most effective manner possible. This handbook provides an overview of every aspect of volunteerism for libraries.

2) New Brunswick Public Library System Review: Discussion Paper.=20 New Brunswick: N.B. Dept. of Municipalities, Culture and Housing Quality Service Initiative, June 1996. (Prof 027.47151 New)

- The central theme of this discussion paper is that the N.B. Public Library system is in jeopardy of serious decline in service due to several factors. N.B. Public Libraries are faced with the fact that available funding is no longer meeting their current needs. As well, other challenges and opportunities are forcing the province's public libraries to look at the way that they are providing services to their users. This discussion paper is the starting point of an extensive review process. It= is organized according to the four areas under review; Roles and Responsibilities, Service Delivery Mechanisms, Funding Issues, and Organizational Structure and Governance. The overall expectation of this paper is that the many challenging questions raised will stimulate thoughtful discussion and input. -- Frank Oram

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